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- 71 -

#### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Compositions and methods are disclosed for inhibiting the release of a proinflammatory cytokine from a cell, and for inhibiting an inflammatory cytokine cascade in a patient. The compositions comprise an HMGB A box, and an antibody  
5 preparation that specifically binds to an HMGB B box. The methods comprise treating a cell or a patient with sufficient amounts of the composition to inhibit the release of the proinflammatory cytokine, or to inhibit the inflammatory cytokine cascade.